

MEMORANDUM

To: Vermont Electric Distribution Utilities

From: Judith C. Whitney, Deputy Clerk of the Board

Re: Streetlighting Tariffs

Date: April 15, 2009

The Public Service Board ("Board") is aware that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 makes some funds available to local governments in Vermont under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program ("Block Grant"). The U.S. Department of Energy has published a Funding Opportunity Announcement which includes a list of some eligible activities for the use of the Block Grant funds.¹ One eligible activity is the replacement of street lights with energy efficient lighting technologies, including light emitting diodes ("LED") and any other technology of equal or greater energy efficiency.

The Board would like to ensure that there are no regulatory barriers to local governments using efficient street lights (funded with Block Grant monies or any other means), should they choose to do so. One possible barrier could be the streetlighting tariff under which the municipality is served because at least some Vermont electric distribution utilities' streetlighting tariffs do not include rates for customer-owned fixtures. In addition, at least some utilities' streetlighting tariffs charge different rates depending upon the type and wattage of the fixtures, but do not include an option for LED streetlights or other technologies of equal or greater energy efficiency.

Therefore, the Board would like each distribution utility to review its streetlighting tariff and file with the Board, on or before May 15, 2009, either:

¹The Funding Opportunity Announcement is available at the following website:
https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/PublicPages/PublicSearch/Public_Opportunities.aspx. Search by reference number for: DE-FOA-0000013. The list of eligible activities can be found on pages 6-8 of the Funding Opportunity Announcement.

(1) proposed revisions to its streetlighting tariff that address possible barriers in the utility's current tariff to a municipal customer using high-efficiency fixtures (such as LEDs);

(2) a letter explaining why the utility believes its current tariff would not be a barrier to a municipal customer using efficient streetlights; or

(3) a letter explaining why the utility does not wish to change its current tariff, even though it could be a barrier to a municipal customer using efficient streetlights.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Ann Bishop, Chief Economist, at ann.bishop@state.vt.us.

cc: Vermont Department of Public Service
Vermont League of Cities and Towns
Vermont Public Power Supply Authority
Efficiency Vermont